

From: Erwan Barret
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:38am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

As a contributor to many IT magazines, including MacDirectory in the USA, I feel it is my responsibility to contribute to the settlement of the Microsoft case by seizing the opportunity you offer to users.

I can remember the time when I was a strong advocate of Microsoft as an application software vendor, when their position did not endanger competition. I insist that in this time, Microsoft was still a company that regularly introduced inventions, thus helping the whole industry to go forward. In my opinion, it has now been a long time since this happened.

My current work, and the jobs of many people in the USA and in the world depend directly from computer products, among which Microsoft product still hold a considerable importance. Everyone I know uses Microsoft at work. We defend Microsoft as a software application company as much as we deplore that they could legally reach such a hegemony in the OS industry.

Therefore I am strongly opposed to the simple payment of a fine. Fines are a penalty for the poor, not for the rich. It is that simple. The other reason is, the application to Microsoft of very clever antitrust laws can only save jobs in the long run, AND make the industry go further, faster and in a more efficient way.

The people who designed Word and Excel are not the same as those who design unsecure, unstable and proprietary operating systems. Laws allow you to part them for the best: excellent multi-platform software applications on one side, and operating systems confronted in a fair market to a clever competition on the other side.

The main goal is supposed to be customer satisfaction. Aforementioned suggestions, no different from those indicated by the law, are an obvious gain to everyone. I'm looking forward to seeing fairly competing Baby Mikes challenge Apple, Oracle, UNIX integrators and many other companies who do compete fairly on the common ground of quality.

Many thanks for allowing users to express their opinion.

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